



## Principal's Newsletter - End of Spring Term 2 – March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here at Theddlethorpe Academy we have been working hard to create a warm and nurturing primary school. The staff have worked together to establish a welcoming and inclusive school community. This has had a positive impact on how the children approach their educational journey and they have responded well and speak confidently about our values 'PACE' — Pride, Achievement, Confidence, and Effort.

With these key values providing guidance we have been encouraging good manners, with the children moving around in silence and being respectful to each other. The children are starting to show commitment and dedication to our values and we would ask you to spend a few minutes with your child to highlight the importance of being respectful and practising good manners. This would be extremely valuable to us and will enhance what we are trying to achieve in the Academy. We do of course recognise, and thank you, for all the support you give the Academy. Without this ongoing support we know that the children would not have as many opportunities and resources that they need for their best possible education.

Whilst thanking you, our parents and carers, I would also like to thank every single member of our dedicated staff. Our team continue to focus on providing high quality teaching and education for our children together with a caring and supportive pastoral environment.

### Our Core Values

This half term we focused on 'Effort' and our winners were:

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Lucy Coldicott | Reception |
| Danielle Monk  | Year 1    |
| Elliott Virgo  | Year 2    |
| Riley Scott    | Year 3    |
| Alex Bayston   | Year 4    |
| Lola Howseman  | Year 5    |
| Drew Barker    | Year 6    |



### Attendance

With the easing of national restrictions, the DfE has written to all schools to ask them to write plans to improve attendance in school. Over the course of the past two years, the normal procedures for absence were suspended but it has been made clear to all schools that these are to be reinstated.

At the end of last term, I wrote to all parents where attendance was below 90% and this is something that we will continue to monitor going forward. I realise that 90% may seem quite high as a percentage but this actually equates to missing a day of school every two weeks, or four weeks of school across a school year. If you scale this up, it is actually two-thirds of a year across their primary-aged schooling. There will always be times where children are unwell and this is unavoidable but we all need to make every effort to ensure



children are in school and on time. If your child is absent parents/carers must call in every day by 9.15am to report the reason for the absence.

| Attendance during one school year | equals this number of days absent | which is approximately this many week absent | which means this number of lessons missed. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 95%                               | 9 days                            | 2 weeks                                      | 50 lessons                                 |
| 90%                               | 19 days                           | 4 weeks                                      | 100 lesson                                 |
| 85%                               | 29 days                           | 5 weeks                                      | 150 lessons                                |
| 80%                               | 38 days                           | 6 weeks                                      | 200 lessons                                |

Therefore, any child who has more than 10% absence would be classified as a **persistent absentee** and questions will be asked as to the reasons for the absence. This does not mean that parents/carers will automatically be at risk of prosecution. However, during routine visits the Educational Welfare will discuss whether there are interventions that could be put into place that would result in the reduction of days lost to absence.

### Vouchers for Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals

As in previous holiday periods, the local authority is once again supporting the holiday voucher scheme for those children eligible for free school meals. Relevant parents will have received their vouchers this week. Over the last 12 months, our numbers of children eligible for free school meals has increased significantly – we still believe that there are quite a few parents who would qualify but haven’t applied to the local authority – this is something we can advise on. If you would like any support or guidance, please contact us on [enquiries@theddlethorpeacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@theddlethorpeacademy.co.uk) or 01507 353 458.

### School Meals

Mellors Catering Services has been supplying catering for Theddlethorpe Academy since January 4th, 2022. We've been working with teachers and parents to urge more children to eat a healthy lunch at school. If your child brings a packed lunch in to school, please ensure that it is balanced and healthy.

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/> for some great hints and tips on how to keep your child’s lunchbox healthy and interesting. Please no nuts, chocolate, sweets or fizzy sugary drinks. Our caterers provide a variety of delicious, nutritious hot meals every day. If your child has a packed lunch every day, why not encourage them to try one hot meal a week?

As you are aware, the school office is extremely busy, and we do not have time to contact parents to remind them to order their children's meals. Therefore, we respectfully request that you complete the school meal order form by 9.00 a.m. on Friday morning for the following week. We appreciate your assistance in making this procedure go as smoothly as possible.



## School Uniform

It is always lovely to see our children looking smart in their school uniforms. Children should wear white shirts, **grey trousers / skirts, not black** and black plain shoes. PE Kit must consist of indoor and outdoor wear.

| INDOOR                                  | OUTDOOR  |
|---|--|
| Plimsoles<br>Shorts<br>T-Shirt<br>Socks | Trainers<br>Tracksuit bottoms<br>Black or navy hoodie<br>T-shirt and Socks |

Please **label all of your child's school uniform** / PE kit and remind them of the significance of looking after their belongings, as this will reduce the amount of uniform that is mislaid or lost.

## Activities

The children have had many exciting events since returning after half term. We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for events as we relax some of our restrictions. Safety is our priority and we will be keeping an eye on both the number of positive cases in school and the local area.

## World Book Day

Thank you for the huge effort that you and your child made to dress up during World Book Day. Children have enjoyed taking part in lots of reading and book-based activities including; Bringing in their favourite book to share with the class, Class Book Read - Every class shared reading with another class in school. This was aimed at encouraging shared reading. Together with your encouragement and the work from school staff we will help to inspire a lifelong love for reading in all our children.





## People Who Help Us

Early years children have been studying the topic of 'people who help me,' and they have had many visitors to the Academy to explain their roles and how they support others in the community. Farmers, firefighters, LIVES, and a special visit from Scarlett the guide dog have all been among the visitors.



They also had a visit to the local library





## Sporting events

In March, all of the children participated in a cricket event hosted by Dynamos Cricket within the Academy, which focused on developing fundamental movement skills and putting them to use in an exciting game of countdown cricket.



Our Year 3 and 4 Girls travelled to Market Rasen's Leisure Centre for an Exclusive Girls' 'Wildcats' 7 a-side Football Tournament. The pupils were a credit to themselves and the Academy. They had a wonderful experience, it was a fantastic opportunity to develop their Football skills.



## Dates for The Diary

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1st-18th April                   | Easter Break   |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April   | Pupils Return to School  |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April    | Various afterschool clubs commence   |
| Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April | Reception and year 6 Weight and Measuring Programme                        |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May      | Queen's Jubilee party for all including children, parents and grandparents |

## Preparation for formal assessments during the 2021/22 academic year:

Please ensure your child attends any Booster sessions and completes all homework tasks set for the children. The DfE is expecting SATs to resume in Year 6 and Year 2 for end of key stage assessments, despite the significant deficit of learning over the past two years. However, we all want the children to do their best in preparation for the next stages in their education – so please support your child as much as possible.

Year 2 - End of KS1 Assessments – to be administered during May 2022.

Year 1 - Phonics Screening Check Week commencing Monday 6th June 2022.

Year 4 - Multiplication Tables Check – taken from Monday 6th June 2022 (over a three week period).

Year 6 - Key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 9th May – Thursday 12th May 2022.



## E-Safety

We are aware that children are possibly spending more time online so we thought it would be useful to send links to websites that support you as parents in keeping your child safe.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/> is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/parent-and-carer-toolkit/> offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/> provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/> has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games.

<https://www.ltai.info/staying-safe-online/> Let's Talk About It has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/> UK Safer Internet Centre has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.

## Covid Update - Repeat Message

We would like families to continue to support us by following the advice from Public Health including:

- children and adults who test positive to self-isolate for at least 5 days
- additional tests to be taken on day 5 and 6 with a return to school following 2 negative tests on these days.
- children and adults presenting on site with covid symptoms to be requested to test at home.
- From 1st April free testing and isolation requirements are also changing, and we can update the school on expectations nearer to the time.

If a child has any of the main symptoms or a positive test result, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should order a test and is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result. If they test positive, they are advised to follow public health advice.

## And finally....

We hope that you have a good rest over the Easter break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.



Mrs S Cook, Principal.